PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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SMASH RACIST POLICE TERROR

Mario Woods: Murdered by SFPD

SAN FRANCISCO, December 2 — "They executed my child…25 bullets in my baby"…He "was was supposed to start UPS today. He got his uniform," …Gwen Woods described the police murder of her son Mario Woods and that his future on a real job was snuffed out. A Bayview resident said that the video is hard to watch: "He got shot like he was at a firing squad. Deplorable."

Videos went viral of five racists San Francisco police surrounding and assassinating Mario Woods, 26, on Thursday December 2. The bosses' usual claim: "He refused to drop a knife and tried to walk away." The videos show him stunned with beanbags and staggering against a wall, followed by a volley of gunshots.

By the next night, over 300 angry people assembled around Mario's memorial for a Vigil , March and Community meeting at a Local Church on 3rd St in the historically Black Bayview District of SF. PLP joined a large multi-racial crowd, Black, Latin White and Asian, reflecting the common working-class anger. Speakers and posters referred to other racist police murders. People welcomed each other. Some Black residents of the Bayview District saying "We are so glad you're here" to those who appeared to be from other neighborhoods. "Mario Woods RIP" was all over the walls and street.

Along with the long list of young Black men murdered by police in the Bay Area, the racist police have killed 2 Latin young men from immigrant families in the last year. White & Asian youth are not subject to police terror at such a high rate but also come under the gun. The assassinations of Mario Woods, Alex Nieto, Amilcar Perez Lopez, and Kenneth Harding were addressed at the rally.

PLP talked with people and distributed around 200 flyers and CHALLENGEs. Like our leaflet, we asked the question "Why with all this fightback has there been no fundamental change in Police Conduct? The murders, arrests, searches and judicial abuses continue." And not to mention mass incarceration! We explained that the police are doing exactly what they are supposed to do — serve the ruling class by terrorizing Black and Latin workers, dividing the working class and keeping all workers in line through fear. We made some friends and plan to bring our flyer back to areas where we have political activity.



Same Fight All Over

Family members, friends, Bayview residents, members of neighborhood Churches and Black Lives Matter spoke about Mario and the history of police murder/harassment up and down 3rd St. Again, folks from outside the neighborhood were welcomed.

A PL'er spoke to bring solidarity greetings from Chicago. "The struggle there brought masses of working people and youth took over the streets in reaction to Laquan McDonald s assassination and cover up. It's the same fight all over." (see page 3). He said that removing the SF Police Chief Greg Suhr or forcing out the Chief of Chicago Police won't make things fundamentally different. It will be new faces, new tactics but the same old racist terror. He urged people to make the long hard struggle to get rid of the capitalist system as part of our fight to end its racist economics, ideas and culture. "We need an alternative to this system that profits from racism and division. PLP organizes to replace capitalism with its opposite, a communist system: A system of equality, dignity and shared responsibility for all our needs; a system that produces everything for the needs of the whole global working class." He got applause and was able to get more contacts from some of the organizers and some people in the school system.✪

SEE MORE STRUGGLES AGAINST RACIST POLICE MURDERS ON PAGES 3 AND 8

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

OUR FIGHT

✯Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✯Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✯Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✯While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✯Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✯Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✯Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✯Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✯Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✯Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Bosses Use Mass Shooting for Imperialism, Fascism

In a period of escalating inter-imperialist competition, the capitalist ruling class will seize on every opportunity to use racism to divide workers—and to enlist them into the next big war.

The latest tragedy came on Dec. 2, when 14 workers were killed and 21 injured in San Bernadino, California. The two shooters, whose motives remain unclear, had apparently proclaimed allegiance to the Islamic State, or ISIS. The U.S. bosses quickly used their government and media to sensationalize the crime and whip up anti-Muslim racism. Beyond trivializing the deaths, the rulers are exploiting workers' fears to gain support for more fascist police repression against Muslim, Black, and immigrant workers—and for the inevitable, global military conflict to defend U.S. imperialism and its declining empire.

Terrorism and Religion: Twin Dangers to the Working Class

Terrorist violence is a political tactic to strike fear and panic. The biggest death toll—by far—comes from state terror waged by the U.S. and its powerful allies or imperialist rivals, from drone strikes and bombing campaigns to racist police murders. Smaller regional imperialists like ISIS, skimming Middle East oil profits under the veil of religion, are just following the big bosses' lead.

But regardless of where it stems from, terrorist violence is always anti-working class. The communist antidote and alternative is mass, revolutionary, working-class violence to seize power from the capitalist class and build an egalitarian, internationalist world. The Progressive Labor Party is organizing a movement to create such a world—a society run by workers to serve workers' needs, a society without profit or wage slavery or any form of exploitation.

The bosses' media pushes the racist idea that Muslims are inherently dangerous to their fellow workers. In fact, *all* religious movements are dangerous to workers. All of them divert workers' natural anti-capitalist anger into the false and divisive unity of nations or religious creeds. Whether Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, or Muslim, from Pope Francis to the Ayatollah Khamenei, the cynical leaders of these movements work hand-in-hand with mass-murdering capitalist rulers to preserve the profit system.

Workers respond to aspects of religion that speak to their deepest aspirations—their need for hope and comfort inside the brutal nightmare of capitalism, their desire to alleviate others' suffering, their vision for a society where all are truly equal. But no mythical supreme being can make those aspirations a reality. Only the international working class can create an egalitarian world. That is our fight to win, in the here and now, alongside our class sisters and brothers.



To help ready the U.S. for a broader conflict with rival Russian or Chinese imperialists, Barack Obama has successfully pushed the U.S. Defense Department to open all military combat jobs to women—and may soon force somen to register for the draft. The rulers' leading mouthpiece, the New York Times, cloaked this move toward global war as a victory for egalitarianism, one that will both "make the military stronger and… narrow America's gender equality gap" (12/6/15). As to "whether women should now be required to register in the Selective Service System," the Times answered its own question: "It could be done easily."

Our party stands for the absolute equality of all workers. But doubling the number of those eligible to kill and die for the bosses' profits is no triumph for working-class women and men. . All military recruits, men and women both, must be organized to turn the guns around—and turn imperialist war into communist revolution!

Religious Appearance, Capitalist Essence

The ISIS bosses consists mainly of former higher-ups in Saddam Hussein's old regime, striving to regain and expand control over the oil wealth of the Middle East. These moguls twisted the California killers—among many other confused workers—with phony, pious propaganda. Quoted in the industry journal OilPrice.com (11/29/15), Texas-based Robert Bensh, "managing director at Pelicourt, a Western-owned oil and gas company navigating tricky conflict zones," noted how religious faith is manipulated to serve profit:

> *Every modern day conflict—even if not immediately evident—has at its heart control over resources from oil and gas to water. Religion is but a symptom; a tool used to consolidate opinions, cement power and lure in new recruits.... ISIS is trying to build a nation here—a fully functional state with its own oil and gas resources.*

High Stakes = Boots on the Ground

The rise of ISIS is a direct challenge to U.S., British, and French control over Iraqi oilfields—control won at a cost of millions of working-class lives over decades of bombings, occupation, and U.S.-sponsored genocide. For these partners in crime, the solution is a wider war that an ISIS attack on U.S. soil could mobilize. On Dec. 2, hours before the San Bernardino shootings, Congress heard prophetic testimony from Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the policy think tank funded by ExxonMobil and the dominant, finance capital wing of the U.S. ruling class:

> *The existence of the Islamic State is a clear and pressing danger to the security of the United States and that of our allies. This threat must be confronted and destroyed before ISIS operatives attack us right here in Washington and in other American cities.*

The day after Defense Secretary Ashton Carter notified Congress that 200 Special Operations forces would be sent to spearhead the fight against ISIS, Boot called for many more boots, U.S. and allied, on Iraqi ground:

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Laquan Present in Struggle: Now and Forever

CHICAGO, November 27 — "Your power is in the streets, not looking around in stores! Take the streets!" A member of the Progressive Labor Party said this in response to a Black nationalist mis-leader during a march on a popular U.S. shopping day called "Black Friday."A multiracial group of Progressive Labor Party members and friends attended the march on Michigan Avenue to protest the racist murder of Laquan McDonald by the Chicago kkkops. This area is where many expensive stores and shopsare, and was called by phony misleader Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition, and others. The Black nationalist mis-leaders wanted to lead the anti-racist workers into the stores, "just look" around, and not buy anything.

The PL'ers marching have a better strategy than the dead-ends pushed by fakers like Jackson. These misleaders want to channel workers' anger into walking around "just looking" inside ritzy stores in rich neighborhoods. These stores are too expensive for workers to shop in, and are done to make a publicity stunt to the capitalist media. PLP fights to unite our class, Asian, Latin, Black and White, to fight back!

Black Nationalism vs. Anti-racism

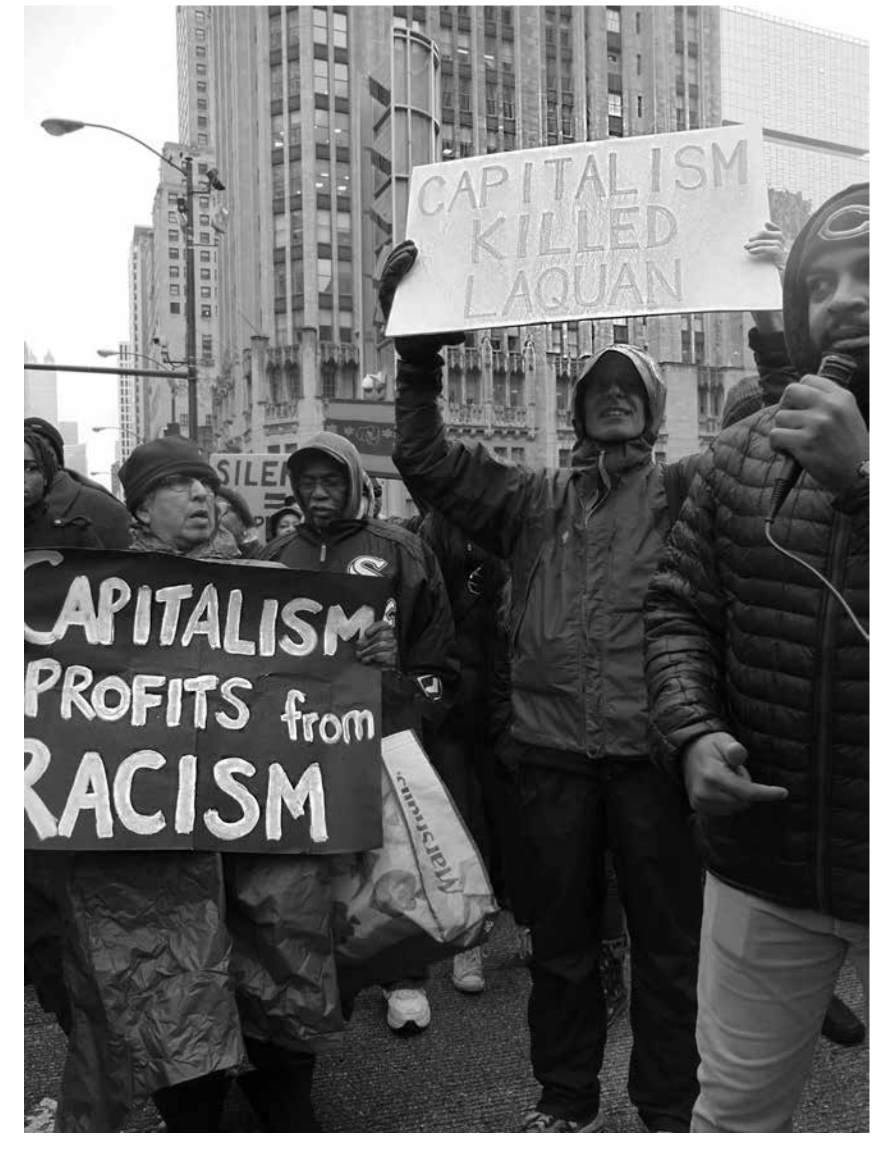
PLP came to the march as a multiracial group, despite the efforts of local Black nationalist misleaders to exclude us because they wanted a "Black Space for Black Rage". PLP opposes identity politics, like nationalism, and neither believes in nor fights for separate "spaces" for different workers with white skin or Black skin.

PL'ers spoke with marchers and contrasted our strategy with the nationalists. The intensity of rebellions led by the Black working class in places like Ferguson and Baltimore are testament to the intense oppression of Black workers in the U.S., especially women. Black leadership is key to building a mass multiracial communist movement to smash capitalism with armed revolution. Black nationalism offers no solutions to capitalism or the racism, sexism and imperialism it feeds on. Black nationalism merely changes the skin color of the capitalist oppressors, leaving Black workers exploited by someone who looks like them with the claim that it's "progress".

Black Workers Key To Revolution

One of the misleaders who spoke at the march showed their true colors and said we have to vote for Hillary, "so this will not happen again." A PL member countered with a speech making the connections that ultimately it was capitalism that killed Laquan. Since Hillary Clinton is one of the biggest imperialists in the world, workers have no interest in her or any candidate the capitalists run for election.

As long as the capitalist system remains, the international working class will never be free of racist police terror, rampant unemployment, or the imperialist wars spawned by capitalism's relentless drive for profit. Black workers, especially Black women, are hit the hardest under capitalism day in and day out. PLP emphasizes Black and women leadership and is organizing a mass working class movement because it will take the whole, united, multiracial working class to fight back together. Together, the working class can build our own mass leaders and smash this racist capitalist system and its genocidal cops with communist revolution. We have a world to win. Join us!✪



Aids Day Rally Attacks Racist Profiteering Drug Companies



WASHINGTON, DC, December 1 —Chanting "Pills Cost Pennies, Greed Costs Lives" a spirited picket line challenged the pharmaceutical lobby, PhRMA at noon on World Aids Day. Friends and members of Progressive Labor Party, Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association and DC Fights Back attacked the exorbitant prices charged by Gilead Sciences for curative Hepatitis C medications, which hit Black workers the hardest (see article in Challenge, (date)). Protesters also attacked international trade agreements that will deny many HIV medications to countries such as Vietnam, and the profits made by drug companies on the back of workers who pay taxes for government drug development and then have to watch more tax dollars given back to the companies from Veterans Affairs, Medicaid and Medicare funding. Protesters also attacked the tax dodges ("inversion") when companies like Pfizer merge with Allergen in Ireland to avoid paying U.S. taxes, declaring "Inversion Is Perversion"!✪

In Rekia Boyd's Memory, Smash Racist KKKops

CHICAGO, November 17 — Rekia's brother led the crowd in, "I am Rekia Boyd!" Outside the hearing, PLP led, "Racist cops you can't hide, we charge you with genocide."

More than a hundred people protested at the monthly Chicago Police Board hearing against the March 2012 murder of Rekia Boyd, a young Black woman, by off-duty kkkop Dante Servin yet to be fired. We distributed CHALLENGE and a leaflet about the Paris attacks. We exposed how the police terrorize workers to maintain the boss's system.

Servin fired into a crowd in a West Side alley and killed Rekia. He was found not guilty because Cook County Judge Dennis Porter ruled he should have been charged with murder instead of manslaughter. Rekia's brother said she would have been 26 years old this month and demanded to know why her killer had not been fired in the three years since the murder.

This case illustrates how the police get away with murder, and especially racist murder of Black and Latin women and men. In just three cases of racist murder, the city of Chicago has paid $8 million dollars to the families of the slain victims.

Some protesters were Black nationalists, who advances the idea that Black workers and students have more in common with Black bosses and politicians than with non-Black workers and students; and therefore should ally with bosses and politicians of the same color rather than their class. Nationalism is a ruling class idea to try to divide the multiracial, multi-ethnic working class. It is a way to divert the communist internationalism PLP fights for. We will organize more workers to attend the next hearing to expose the racist cops and their nationalists.✪

Worker-Student Alliance Fights Back in The Bronx

THE BRONX, December 2 — Students worldwide are raging at the exploitation and racist oppression of capitalism. From South Africa — where tens of thousands demanded and won a cancellation of fee increases — to the University of Missouri — where the president was forced to resign after repeatedly ignoring racist attacks on campus — students are rising up. While these actions should rightly be championed for challenging the ruling class's racism, we must also be aware that militant reform movements will neither end capitalism nor fundamentally change its racist foundations. Only a mass revolutionary party--Progressive Labor Party—can accomplish that. Still, reform actions can be a training ground for communist revolution.

Student fightback on a smaller scale recently played out at a community college. Thirty-five students and professors, including members of Progressive Labor Party, demonstrated against a planned tuition hike throughout the City University of New York. The CUNY bosses' plan, coming on the heels of five straight years of tuition increases, is clearly racist, as the CUNY system serves primarily Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant students.

The demonstration was bold as we marched through campus and into the cafeteria. For many, it was their first protest, yet they loudly chanted and held up signs as other students and faculty looked on. Many observers gave thumbs-up in approval and nodded their heads, boosting our confidence to fight back. The protest showed that people are open not only to fightback, but to being trained in class struggle with communists.

Model of Student-Worker Alliance

Students also attacked injustices to the CUNY faculty, who have worked five years without a contract. "The professors have waited long enough!" they chanted. This reflected an understanding that students and faculty and staff are all on the same side, and that the same factors driving up tuition are also driving down wages. Students spoke about having adjunct instructors who need to rush off to teach at another school immediately after class. Many adjuncts live in poverty or are on government assistance. As the faculty fights for a new contract, it is vital to build a student-worker alliance, and to demand that any raise for workers not be funded by a student tuition hike.

Cutbacks for War

After we marched to picket at the college's front gate, PL'ers injected a communist perspective. One comrade exposed the root cause of the cutbacks attacking the working class worldwide: inter-imperialist rivalry. The U.S. ruling class is raising tuition and cutting financial aid because they need to funnel money to their military war machine to prop up their failing empire. As China and Russia increasingly challenge the U.S. worldwide, as in Syria, we can expect even more racist cutbacks.

The battle against ISIS, a group formed out of the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq that the U.S. ousted in 2003, reflects the increasingly dire situation facing U.S. imperialism. The money U.S. bosses need to wage this fight is being stolen from our class in the form of racist and sexist cutbacks in healthcare, childcare, education, housing, jobs and social services. In their attempt to pacify and neutralize the working class, the capitalist rulers are trying to exploit workers' fears to build all-class unity for an escalated war in the Middle East.



Multiracial group of mainly women students take up South Africa students' slogan "fees must fall!"



Calling Out the Prez

Finally, we marched to the administration building. Our volume forced the college president to emerge from his office. Campus cops came running down as well, exposing their fear of student-professor power. He offered the usual platitudes about taking our message to the CUNY chancellor and "being on our side."

One student called out the president's bluff and took out his cellphone, demanding that Marti call the Chancellor then and there. Of course, that didn't happen. Under capitalism, at all levels, it's the job of politicians and administrators to pacify workers and students. While some students seemed to take Marti by his words, there were many looks of healthy skepticism. Most people knew the president's promise wasn't worth a damn.

This growing skepticism is an opportunity for PLP to raise our ideas, above all the need for communist revolution and the making of a new society. Over recent years, the fighting spirit of the working class may have burned more dimly than in the past. But the fire is far from extinguished! From South Africa to the Bronx, students and workers are rising up in ways large and small. Their fighting spirit, combined with PLP's communist politics, will pave the way to a future without bosses, racism, capitalist exploitation or imperialist wars.✪

Strike for Ferguson Solidarity

DAVIS, CA, December 3— Mounting a tabletop in the center of the local university cafeteria, a student started chanting, "Black lives matter!" "It is our duty to fight!" and other anti-racist chants. Forty students then rallied and obstructed entrances inside the cafeteria in protest of the racist police murder of Laquan McDonald in Chicago.

'Remember The Dead…'

Organized by a campus group called Davis Stands With Ferguson, the students also denounced the vicious, firing-squad-like execution of Mario Woods, a 26-year-old Black man, in San Francisco a day earlier (see page). Meanwhile, three other groups stood in front of three entrance doors, holding signs protesting racist police killings. Students were greeted by their fellow students and their signs as they entered and left, bringing the issue of racist police killings up front to several hundred students at the noon lunch hour.

'…Fight Like Hell For The Living!'

Planning for today's action began on November 18, after students had assembled at the plaza outside the Memorial Union to write the names of victims of racist police violence. On the Tuesday before the rally, students gathered once more to finalize the details of today's action.

These actions show that students are aware and angry, know how to organize, and can act together. In a follow-up discussion, a general student strike on campus was proposed as a goal. We will continue to be involved in the planning and execution of these actions to build solidarity between students and faculty.

Progressive Labor Party encourages these students to continue these bold actions! We will struggle with the students to continue organizing students on campus, and organize and build a movement that includes campus workers.

PLP organizes workers, students and soldiers unite and build a mass international communist party that can end capitalism, and its racist police terror and imperialism, once and for all. Only a communist revolution, which unites all workers in the fight against racism and for egalitarian communism can end police racism forever and give our class the future that we want. We look forward to helping these students sharpen the fight against racism on campus, and fighting alongside them in the struggles ahead!✪

Lessons From 1949 CCNY Strike

As the City University of New York (CUNY) community gears up to battle the college bosses — against a new contract demand on professors and staff, and a tuition hike for students — it is important to remember that we hail from a long line of fightback. In 1949, a strike shut down the City College of New York (CCNY) campus in Manhattan for a full week—what the New York Times called "the first general strike at a municipal institution of higher learning" in the U.S. The walkout grew out of a demand that the college administration fire two racist professors. One was guilty of anti-Semitism, the other of imposing racist segregation in a college dormitory.

William Knickerbocker, chairman of the Romance Language department, had withheld honors and advancement from deserving Jewish students and professors. He treated Jewish students contemptuously and made anti-Semitic remarks like, "Hitler was right when he attacked the Jews, but when he began attacking the Poles, that was bad."

William Davis, an economics professor, was a director of the Army Hall dormitory established for students who were World War II veterans. He set up segregated sections for Black and white vets.

The actions of these two professors enraged the mostly Jewish and Black student population, many of whom had fought Hitler's racism — over 300 students died — in the war against the Nazis.

The CCNY student body of that era had a militant, left-wing character. Two hundred belonged to the college's YCL (Young Communist League) chapter. Eight hundred had joined the Students for Wallace club in 1948, backing Henry Wallace's independent run for president against Democratic Party candidate Harry Truman, known for his Cold War policies against the Soviet Union and his genocidal atom bomb attacks against Japan in World War II. (Since then, the old communist movement's support for lesser-evil candidates has proven to be a losing strategy.)

In the fall of 1948, 2,000 students sat in at the administration building, demanding the firing of the two racist professors. The following April, the CCNY Student Council voted for a general strike for that demand.

On April 11, 1949, two dozen students — many of them YCL'ers as well as veterans in their Army uniforms — picketed the main building. They carried signs demanding, "Fire Kickerbocker and Davis!" and chanted, "Jim Crow Must Go!" As thousands of students emerged from the subway on Broadway and streamed

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30th Annual Anti-Racism Feast: Celebrate Multiracial Fightbacks!

WASHINGTON, DC, November 27 — More than 70 people celebrated the 30th annual "Thanks-For-Fighting Racism Feast," a marvelous international, militant, youthful and multiracial event. Two carloads of Howard University students and a vanload of Baltimore youth kicked off the dinner. We raised funds to support the struggle against racism in Ferguson and sold dozens of new "No to Racism" buttons bearing the names Freddie Gray and Tyrone West, both killed by kkkops. The feast linked different aspects of the Party's work — from transit and education to health and fighting police terror — as one movement of women, Black, Latin, youth and immigrant leaders for an egalitarian communist society.

Many worked long hours to make posters on the history of militant struggles in the Baltimore-Washington region. The posters attacked a range of racist crimes under capitalism, from supremacist gangs and police terror to modern eugenics and inadequate health care. These visuals prompted intense discussion.

Four youth from Baltimore spoke about their West Wednesdays rallies against the racist murderers of Tyrone West and a high school walk-out to protest the murder of Freddie Gray. Another high school student addressed the intensifying racism aimed at undocumented workers. A professor from China—sharing the viewpoint of many workers there—called the U.S. Thanksgiving a myth of all-class unity that glossed over the genocide of indigenous people in the New World. He said he was happy to be at a dinner in the U.S. where workers agreed with that idea! His friends are pleased that we are fighting back against racism in the U.S.

A mother whose son, Gary A. Hopkins, Jr., was killed in 1999 by the Prince George's County cops, was heartened to see so many militant youth and called on them to step up and fight back. Ongoing struggles by the People's Coalition include the fight against the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights" and demands for other reforms. The mother noted thatthe problem of police terror went deeper than "a few bad apples." As long as other cops maintain the Blue Wall of Silence by protecting murderers in their ranks, she said, there are no "good apples."

Members of Progressive Labor Party presented their work in the American Public Health Association. On World AIDS Day, December 1, the main target was the big drug companies that value huge profits over workers' lives (see page 3).

A Howard student, invited by a friend, gave a moving spoken word entitled "One." It addressed the need for unity as one force against racism. Afterward, she said she was excited to be at the dinner and connect with so many people who are fighting back.

A young Metro bus operator campaigning for union office spoke about the bosses' attacks on transit operators, including cuts in the pension plan, hikes in health care contributions, the racist background check policy, and increased harassment in the new discipline policy. Back in August, he said, the idea of going on strike was not taken seriously by many Metro workers. After four months of organizing, however, workers have been moved closer to striking to gain leverage over the bosses. But as the driver emphasized, striking alone cannot solve the problem of racist, capitalist exploitation. She talked about the need for a disciplined Party to uproot capitalism and plant communism in a society run by and for workers.

As we prepare for another year of battles against racism and its source, the capitalist system, we are optimistic that more workers will be joining the battle. In the coming year, we need connect racism in the U.S. to racism in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and worldwide by highlighting PLP's international leadership for the working class. The future remains bright!✪

San Bernardino Used for Imperialist War and Fascism

Continued from page 2

> *I believe we will need a force of 20,000 to 30,000 … including a substantial Special Operations task force…to galvanize and support a Sunni uprising in Iraq and Syria. If we make such a commitment, allies such as France, Britain, and Egypt are likely to step forward as well.*

U.S. v. Russia...

In another Dec. 2 development, U.S.-dominated NATO extended a formal invitation for membership to Montenegro, historically a Russian satellite in the Balkans—a once and future flashpoint for U.S.-Russia conflict. Representing ExxonMobil's interests, Boot seemed to be inviting an open conflict with Russia, despite U.S. bosses' lack of readiness [see box]. Here is how the CFR analyst assessed a likely U.S. escalation:

> *Against these benefits must be weighed the potential risk of confrontation with Russia, whose air force is already bombing U.S.-supported rebels in Syria. This is a very real concern… Make it clear to Russia that…its forces will challenge ours at their own peril....The Turkish shoot-down of a Russian jet has exposed Putin's bluster and is likely to make him think twice about confronting NATO forces in Syria.*

In its "ISIS War Games III" report (12/3/15), the Atlantic Council, another policy-formulation group backed by the biggest Exxon-tied U.S. financiers and industrialists, goes one step further:

> *Should ...the transnational threat of ISIS reach alarming levels, the United States might be left with the least desirable of all options: military occupation akin to the U.S. presence in Iraq from 2003 to 2011.*

...And Bringing the War Home

In response to San Bernadino, Barack Obama issued an appeal to intensify the enlistment of Muslim community "leaders" into networks of informers—a modern take on Hitler's Judenrat, the Jewish Council leaders enlisted by the Nazis to organize the deportation of European Jews to the death camps. The ruling-class Times (12/6/15) approved: "[T]he authorities may have to rely more on encouraging Americans to watch one another and report suspicions. Federal and local governments already have programs urging friends, families and neighbors to identify people targeted for [ISIS] recruitment."

Turn Imperialist War Into Revolutionary War!

As German poet and communist Bertolt Brecht wrote: "General, man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But he has one defect: he can think." The capitalist bosses, driven by their competition for maximum profit, will never stop plotting for war to redivide the world's resources. But their grand plans will go nowhere unless they win the international working class to fight willingly for imperialism—or, at the very least, to be terrorized into submission and obedience.

The revolutionary communist PLP is building an international movement in 28 countries—and counting—to smash the entire capitalist system. The bosses may start their next global showdown, but organized communists can finish it—by organizing fightbacks against racism and imperialism, and winning millions of workers to join the fight for a world without capitalism. We need all workers to stand and become leaders in this struggle. Join us!✪

Lessons From 1949 CCNY Strike

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uphill toward the campus, they were greeted with what might have been the most concise leaflet ever created. Chalked across the width of 137th Street, in eight-foot-high letters, was one word—"STRIKE!"

When the students reached Convent Avenue, across from the main building's picket line, they stopped and watched, holding their books and trying to decide whether to go to class. Suddenly squads of cops under orders from the college bosses, emerged to attack the picket line. The students fought back but were roughed up and shoved into waiting police vans. Seventeen were arrested.

Witnessing this cop brutality against a peaceful picket line, the students across the street immediately formed a new line, a thousand strong. An anti-racist strike was on. The students cheered as a car drove by with a student holding up the front page of the New York Sun (one of eight daily New York papers at the time) with a headline screaming, "Students Riot At CCNY." Virtually no one went to class as the campus was shut down. Many in the faculty supported the strike. After it was over, one professor told his students that if they'd attended his class, he would have sent them out to join the walkout.

Davis was removed from his post as director of the Army Hall dorm. Knickerbocker resigned as department chairman, and later retired.

Two decades later, many of the striking students used their militant experience at CCNY in the anti-racist and anti-Vietnam War movements. Today, 66 years after the strike, it would be fitting for the current student and faculty body to call upon this legacy and strike for their demands against the bosses of CUNY and shut it down. It would be even more fitting for them to join Progressive Labor Party and joinf the fight for communist revolution, the only way to destroy the racism that continues to plague the working class.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Rally Builds Women as Leaders

As someone fairly new to political activism, participating with my comrades in the Million Student March at Hunter College in November was an excitingly rich and gainful experience.

I left the protest with many lessons on what it means to effectively participate as a member of PLP. I learned that simply being present is not enough, and that understanding how to actively participate is quite difficult when demonstrating side-by-side with other leftist groups. I realized that although we may agree some demands pushed by these groups in principle, our foundational differences keep us significantly apart. While they preach reform within the system, we fight for international communist revolution; while some revolt against the symptoms, in this case, Zionism, we attack the disease: imperialist rivalries in the capitalist system. I learned that these nuances are nothing to gloss over, and that, with a little bit of strategizing accompanied by a bullhorn, even a group of women as small as three people can shift the rhetoric back to class struggle.

The greatest personal lesson I left with came with my first speech over a bullhorn. I started off strong, talking about my opinions and own personal experience with affording college, and I was thrilled at the lively response I received from the crowd. However, about halfway through, I got nervous, lost my train of thought, and handed off the mike. In all my preparation, I failed to realize that the message of my speech should ultimately lead back to the Party line. If I had kept this in mind, I could have easily regained myself. Despite the mild embarrassment, I am eager to use what I learned in rallies, protests, and marches to come!

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Analyzing Bosses' Splits Irrelevant for Working Class?

In the CHALLENGE editorial of 11/25/15, assertions were made that could lead to misconceptions of the ruling class, its relations with elections and our analysis of the class struggle against the capitalists.

It was stated that "elections in any capitalist country…are used to discipline bosses ranks, to centralize power…" Elections are not tools used to discipline one ruling class factions by another. The only functions of these bourgeois elections is to deceive workers through reforms and reliance on the lesser of two evils. Also: Every U.S. president has endorsed military force as long as imperialist rivalry demands it. From Reagan to Obama, the U.S. has bombed the Middle East since the 1980s.

It's true that the electoral system was used in Germany and Austria to bring fascism, with the support of reformist-led organizations. Yet insisting that one set of the ruling class, specifically the Koch brothers, is trying to use the 2016 election to stop the centralization of power is completely inaccurate. The Koch brothers are as imperialist and capitalist as any boss; they own facilities throughout Europe, Canada and Mexico.

On a last note, it's irrelevant to analyze the U.S. ruling class as opposing factions, with an imperialist wing and a domestic wing. Capitalism is what leads to imperialism. Military force will always be used to tighten a loosened imperialist grip. When capitalism is in crisis, the bosses will use fascist actions to increase profits and quell working-class rebellion. Only the working class can defeat the bourgeoisie and its profit system throughout the world.

CHALLENGE response: *While all U.S. bosses profit by exploiting workers, they do not have identical interests. Saying so would be misguiding workers. How else do we explain the stark difference between the propaganda of the anti-interventionist Cato Institute, co-founded by Charles Koch (essentially: Don't waste tax dollars in the Middle East) and the mainstream imperialist Council of Foreign Relations (essentially: The U.S. needs to regain control of the Middle East)?*

Yes, the Kochs benefit from aspects of imperialism, and they sometimes buy Iraqi oil. But their international operations pale by comparison to ExxonMobil's—they do not operate oil wells in both northern and southern Iraq, for example.

As a result, they have less urgency to plant boots on the ground in the Middle East, and less interest in footing the tax bill for the broader imperialist war to come. Finally, if elections don't reflect inter-boss conflict, why do the factions behind these opposing policies spend so much on them? Understanding splits in the ruling class guides us on how to fight back.

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Capitalism Strangles Children

The news has recently mentioned research showing that crib bumpers (that line in baby's cribs designed to prevent their getting caught between the vertical struts) have been responsible for scores of infant deaths through suffocation over the last few decades. The researchers have found, in fact, that virtually all infant deaths are due to suffocation either from crib bumpers, from parents who roll over on their babies in bed, or other instruments of air blockage.

And now comes a statement by the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association that they do "not know of any infant deaths directly attributed to crib bumpers." Thus capitalism strikes again. They might as well have said, "Our profits are more important than your baby's life." To the capitalists this is undeniably true. To the working class, the elimination of capitalism from the surface of the earth is a matter of life and death.

As a secondary point, what used to be called SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) is now seen to be due to suffocation. Before, SIDS was thought by pediatricians and others — who are all too ready to attribute everything to our genes — to be due to some genetic defect in the infant, which misdiagnosis, among other things, made parents of a SIDS victim scared to have more children. Any statement that attributes health conditions just to our genes should be looked at with great skepticism, particularly since in almost every case, the real cause is subsequently found to be conditions of capitalism.

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Racist FDR No Friend of Workers

In a previous issue of CHALLENGE, the letter "Deadly Pitfall of 'Progressives'" mentioned president Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs. This is expanding on FDR's critical role in protecting capitalism in that time period.

When FDR became president in 1933, the U.S. was in the midst of the worst depression in the country's history. The crisis was worldwide. There was only one country that had full employment — the communist-led Soviet Union, setting an example for the international working class. More than one-third of U.S. workers were jobless. Given the threat of uprisings, Roosevelt was determined to save capitalism. And his first move was to the right. He sent General Hugh Johnson to Italy to study Mussolini's fascist state to possibly use that to fend off any radical threat to the bosses' system.

But communists were organizing the unemployed, bringing 800,000 workers into a National Unemployment Council, fighting for unemployment insurance. Then the communists led the organizing of the autoworkers in a sit-down strike for union recognition, occupying GM's Flint, Michigan, plants. Roosevelt called out the National Guard to surround the plants and also used them against strikes throughout the country. The Flint strikers warned GM that if the Guard attempted to enter the plants, they would destroy the company's billion dollars worth of machinery. This forced GM to give in.

This sparked a mass movement throughout the U.S., which forced Roosevelt to respond with a series of reforms, including unemployment benefits, Social Security, the 8-hour day and 40-hour week. Roosevelt and the rulers used these reforms to win the working class to support the U.S. war effort against fascism. They instituted a military draft of 14 million workers, which wiped out the Great Depression's unemployment. It should be noted however that the majority of workers were anti-fascist and fighting to defeat the Nazis and Japanese fascists. They greatly supported the Soviet Union's smashing of Hitler, with the Red Army taking on 80 percent of the Nazi armies.

But Roosevelt was no champion of the working class. He saw to it that the bosses made billions in profits from the capitalists' war effort. And he sided with the racist Democrats in the Southern states in opposing anti-lynching legislation, and maintaining the Jim Crow oppression of Black people in all areas of life — poverty wages, slum housing and apartheid medical care and ghettoes enforced by police terror.

Unfortunately the U.S. Communist Party, while militantly anti-racist, ended up supporting Roosevelt in his last two election campaigns on the basis of a united front against fascism. The CPSUA failed the working class by disregarding the fact that the U.S. was engaged in an imperialist fight against German and Japanese bosses, and was by no means on our side.

In Solidarity with Muslim and Arab Workers

THE BRONX, November 30 — Our Progressive Labor Party collective here is stepping up our anti-racist efforts in the name of the international working class and learning to give better communist leadership in our immigrant rights organization.

One constant topic of discussion is inter-imperialist rivalry and war. We read the CHALLENGE editorials about the fight among imperialists for control of oil and natural gas in the Middle East. We read about the rise of ISIS, and about the war in Syria and the heart-wrenching mass exodus of workers there, hundreds of thousands of whom have already died. Our Party's goal of communist revolution, however long-range, is more urgent than ever.

The Bronx contains immigrants from throughout the world. In September, we joined with a local immigrant group to protest Donald Trump's call for an apartheid wall on the border with Mexico and his gutter racism against Latin workers. A PL'er linked Trump's racist attack to the dispossession of Syrian refugees and the escalating war in the Middle East. We called for welcoming refugees and smashing all borders. At a recent protest, many took up our chant: "Black, Latin, Asian, white, workers of the world unite!"

What we do counts. In her English class, a PL'er talked with her students about the terrorist attacks in France. "We are saddened by the attacks and we condemn them," she said. "But we are also saddened and angry at the millions of workers' deaths worldwide from starvation, war and forced migration and the tragic loss of lives in bombings in Syria and Yemen. Capitalism is to blame, and as long as it exists these horrors will continue."

In a written statement for the immigrant rights group, the teacher expressed support for Muslim students, workers, and families: "We need working-class unity, not racist attacks or bullying of children in schools. We want to welcome Syrian refugees to the U.S." The Department of Education at our site [UNCLEAR] signed onto the statement and we've begun to distribute it to mosques in the area. We've been met with gratitude.

Speaking within the organization, another PL'er said: "We condemn the terrorist attacks in France and mourn the deaths of victims who are members of the working class, like us. All victims of war need to unite against the wars in the Middle East, which are a product of imperialist rivalry for oil."

The members agreed, and the PL'er succeeded in getting the organization to sponsor a community forum. The forum will reflect the organization's support for the Democratic Party and its push to get out the vote in the 2016 presidential election. But PL'ers will also have an opportunity to win workers to our communist analysis. Within this reform work, we are bringing our communist politics of no borders and working-class fightback.

Self-critically, our PLP collective needs to sharpen our analysis of the link between racist police murders of young Black and Latin men to the world situation and anti-Muslim racism. And we will. Workers are open, if still cautious. We will distribute CHALLENGE and recruit people to our study groups and Party. Never underestimate the power of communist ideas!✪

Habtom Zerhom: Lynched by Israeli Fascism

In Beersheba, Israel-Palestine, a terrorist attack on 19 October revealed the true nature of Israeli society. An innocent Eritrean migrant named Habtom Weldemicheal Zerhom, who was only in the town to renew his Israeli work visa, was lynched.

Terrorizing civilians is nothing new in Israel-Palestine, and never ends racism and exploitation. Indeed, the founding of the Israeli state involved many such terrorist attacks on unarmed Palestinian civilians by Zionist groups.

As the attack by a young Arab-Israeli unfolded that night, Zerhom and his friend Yohanns Arefayne ran from the bus stop where they waited. Upon entering a nearby building Yohanns turned to find his friend Zerhom was not with him. Zerhom had been shot by a security guard who "mistook" him as a second terrorist, and was dying in the street. As he lay bleeding, he was set upon by an Israeli mob that brutally kicked and beat his lifeless body.

In the "fog of war" terrible accidents happen, but only racism explains why a mob attacks an unarmed black man fleeing from a violent situation along with others.

Consider the following:

The Economist magazine in 2014 noted: "the unemployment rate among Israel's Arab men is twice that of Jewish men, and rising. Arab women are three times less likely to have a job than Jewish women. Moreover, Jewish men in Israel earn roughly twice as much as their Arab counterparts."

A 2011 Israeli law legalized segregation within Israeli borders by allowing majority Jewish communities to exclude people it considers "socially unsuitable".

A 2014 article in the Haaretz newspaper reported: "Arab high-schoolers from a weak socioeconomic background receive 42% less (education) ministry funding than Jewish high-schoolers from a similar background".

The killing in Gaza and the occupied territories is often posed as Israel fighting for its survival in the face of aggression. What kind of Israeli society is surviving though? A segregated, racist, exploitative country where workers are divided to benefit the wealthy, is not in the interest of Jewish and Arab working class people.

The fact that the Jewish population of Israel is in decline drives the rulers of Israel crazy. Into this racist brew arrives the recent influx of African migrants. Anti-African demonstrations and graffiti have become commonplace, referring to them as "monkeys" and worse. The new arrivals are "ghettoized" and rounded up, as they are in many parts of the world; and are routinely harassed and attacked.

The lynching of Habtom Weldemicheal Zerhom is nothing new in a society that thrives on racist division. Racism can only end when capitalism ends. The only hope for African, Arab, Jewish and other workers is to fight for a society that eliminates violent racial injustice. Fight for communism!✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

French fascism apes Nazi Colluders

NYT, 11/24 — …In the notorious S-files of the security services…the police are now free to pick up and interrogate suspects virtually at will….

Concern is rising…in Muslim communities being singled out…that has already long felt aggrieved and second class.

"These measures are going to place a spider's web over all of France," said…[a] professor of law at the University of Paris,…"in a discriminatory manner….It's out of control….with all these people…under house arrest…."

"…the police can do whatever they want now….

…A state where the police have the upper hand has echoes in…the collaboration of the Vichy regime [with the Nazis] in World War II….

"Police searches and house arrests can now be ordered by the Interior Ministry and…local officials under the control of Paris…"without judicial warrant…."

…Xavier Nogueras, a Paris lawyer,…represents…people placed under house arrest…[and] are all Muslims and are in the S-files….

Mr. Nogueras says his clients…are shouldering an intolerable burden….Simple attendance at a mosque under surveillance can land someone in the S-files….a catastrophe for his clients….

…They must report to the local police station up to four times a day….For most of them who have a normal work life, they can't even work any longer.

Demopublicans hand out $$$ in corporate welfare

NYT, 11/23 — It's that time of the year again when Republicans and Democrats…dole out gifts of corporate welfare….

…The so-called tax extenders package…has more than 50 tax breaks affecting a variety of industries….

…The first…package…of 1998…. opened a door that lobbyists and lawmakers were all too willing to run through….handing out corporate welfare…to hide the long-term cost to taxpayers….

The tax-extender package…[has] overwhelming bi-partisan support….

One provision allows Hollywood producers to immediately deduct up to $20 million for shooting films in specific locations. The owners of racehorses…[will receive] a $95 million handout in 2016. Motorsports entertainment complexes also get…$95 million over ten years.

Another provision gives wind-energy producers a tax credit….to cost nearly $10.5 billion over the next decade….

The tax credit for research….costs $22.6 billion over ten years….a substantial portion…that businesses would have done even without the tax break….

…The [total] actual cost to taxpayers…will likely be closer to half a trillion dollars — if not more.

Workers Near Prez Live in Garbage

El País (Spain) 11/26 — 36-Year-old Maria Cristina Nariño lives in Barrio Ramirez…(among) a sea of plastic, tires, and boxes only a 15-minute walk from the official residence of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos…for years these 6 hectares (15 acres) have been occupied "illegally" and have no paved roads or sewage pipes or electricity or running water.

According to a recent study Observations of the Informal Land Market in Bogota, there are more than 8000 such hectares (about 20,000 acres) constituting about 30% of Bogota's urban area. The poor of Barrio Ramirez arrived after the old brickworks that covered the area to the foot of the eastern mountains closed…(at) the end of the seventies and the majority of the families are "recyclers" who have very low incomes.

…a 2013 study of the area warned of risks such as "Mudslides, inundations, earthquake, structural collapses, forest fires, and floods".

Prison industry impoverishes immigrant women

NYT, 11/27 — To the editor …Immigrant women [are] forced to wear ankle monitors….[and] many…are detainees…with children who are seeking asylum. They are asking to stay in this country — hardly a flight risk….

These women are forced to pay for the cost of their monitoring up to $500 a month. Private prison corporations are lining their pockets with these dollars. It is part of…the "treatment industrial complex," in which the private prison industry branches out into…new income sources….to make …profits by creating unnecessary systems that profit off the backs of trauma survivors seeking asylum and refuge in the United States. (Caroline Isaacs, American Friends Service Committee-Arizona)

Myanmar Jade mines net billion$, kill 120 workers

NYT, 11/24 — Bangkok — It was known locally as Plastic Village, a sprawling encampment made from tarps and scraps of trash inhabited by workers who scavenged for jade in the rugged hills of northern Myanmar .

Rescue workers…continued to dig through…the encampment after a landslide…buried it along with at least 120 people.

The landslide…highlight[ed] the primitive conditions of an industry that is highly lucrative but notorious for its secrecy and hazardous working conditions….

…The secretary of the Kachin National Social Foundation [said], "We can't say how many [died] because some bodies did not come out as whole pieces…."

Kachin State…is home to the world's most valuable jade, the green rock prized for its luster….

The jade mines…produce mountains of waste that are deposited…at dumping sites.

The landslide…occurred at one of those sites. The inhabitants of Plastic Village….lived and worked on top of the waste pile….

Landslides are common in the open pit jade mines, especially during the monsoon season, when downpours loosen the soil….

After one landslide…rains prevented rescuers from recovering the bodies. "The victims were just left forgotten under the waste forever," [said one resident]….

Global Witness…estimated that Myanmar sold $31 billion worth of jade in 2014….[detailing] connections between the jade industry and former generals as well as links to the illicit drug trade….

"Like the blood diamonds of Africa, this is Myanmar's blood jade crisis," [said a researcher at Eco Dev].

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SMASH STATE TERROR



BROOKLYN—Twenty-nine months into the struggle for Kyam Livingston, murdered in 2013 by Brooklyn cops' racist medical neglect in Central Booking Jail, an increased presence of high school students in the monthly rally represented an important step forward. This advance didn't happen spontaneously. Earlier in November, Kyam's mother, Anita Neal, joined Natasha Duncan—whose sister, Shantel Davis, killed in 2012 by the New York Police Department—in visiting a local high school. Along with a focused effort by Progressive Labor Party youth clubs in Brooklyn, the two women helped introduce a new generation of young working-class fighters to this anti-racist fight.

This struggle is a fight against sexism on two fronts: exposing the racist, sexist murder of Black working-class women in Flatbush, and the fierce leadership given by women in the streets, as demonstrated by Anita, Natasha, and PLP.

Carrying signs and balloons, the protesters flooded into the center of Church Avenue and East 18th Street. The chants rang out: "We want Justice for Kyam Livingston, killed in a Brooklyn cell!" All traffic stopped as CHALLENGEs and leaflets were distributed. Two or three police officers came running to the group to shoo us back to the sidewalk, but the protesters would not be moved. A sympathetic crowd gathered on the sidewalks, excited to see business as usual stopped by the demonstration.

Students from Brooklyn Tech, John Jay and Tilden high schools spoke at the rally. A teacher painted a picture of life under capitalism, pointing out the deaths caused by this racist system. The teacher emphasized the common interests of the working class, and how we need a communist society to benefit working people and not just the wealthy.

Worker-Student Unity

As another speech was given in Spanish, many people stopped to listen to the words of unity. Church members, neighbors, welfare workers, and retirees all spoke at the rally, attacking a capitalist system that allows workers to die slowly because we are denied the resources to save our lives. We saw a worker-student alliance emerging in this fight.

Anita Neal spoke three times to describe her anguish and loss. This is the third year, she noted, that she has suffered through Thanksgiving without her daughter. Money was collected for future leaflets and sound permits. People donated their nickels, dimes and dollars; the working class is ever ready to support the struggle against racism. Many speakers thanked Anita for giving them the leadership that allows them to fight back. They understood that the death of one worker is an injury to all.

After the speeches in the center of the street, we let go of our balloons and watched them waft up into the clouds. The demonstration then marched back to the corner for another 45 minutes of speaking and chanting. We will demonstrate again on Monday, December 21. The struggle will continue!✪



LOS ANGELES—Three racist murders by the Los Angeles Police Department over the past six months were protested on the Venice boardwalk by 30 members of two Unitarian churches, along with members of Progressive Labor Party. The killings of Brendon Glenn, Jason Davis, and Jascent-Jamal Lee "Shakespeare" sparked chants of "Black, Latin, Asian, White! To Smash Racism We Must Unite!"

Now more than ever, we must publicly denounce the bosses' racism and accelerating drive toward fascism, as the capitalist profit system moves inevitably toward broader inter-imperialist war. All of us must struggle with one another and within ourselves to become leaders in the class struggle.

From Marchers to Organizers

These protests are important not because we think reforms can fix the problems of capitalism, but because taking to the streets shows the power of a united, militant working class. During the pre-march rally, a comrade called on marchers to become organizers: "If everyone on the Westside of Los Angeles who agreed with us about racist cops were here today, we'd have 10,000 people marching."

Another speaker reminded us how important it is to stand up and protest police murders and the other atrocities of capitalism and imperialism. Through multiracial unity and international workers' solidarity, PLP is building a mass revolutionary communist movement to smash racist police terror and this entire racist capitalist system. Every time the working class has stood up and fought back, the capitalist ruling class trembles in fear. Now is the time for workers to rise again!

Communist Leaders Serve the Working Class

After the march, a member of one church said she had "never done anything like this before." For years, PL'ers and friends have been inspired by this woman's dedication to feeding homeless workers and her concern for fellow workers in the church. Today marked her first demonstration, a qualitative advance in her commitment to the class struggle. A comrade said, "If you can change, so can lots of other people. And you know some of them." She smiled and nodded. The implication was clear: Through continued struggle we can win workers to become the leadership our international class needs, communist leaders to help build a movement of millions and liberate the working class from capitalism.

Our work is cut out for us: to create more organizers and more communists. We have invited several new people to our monthly PLP study group and added them to our CHALLENGE mailing list.

We continue to struggle with our friends, coworkers, neighbors and fellow churchgoers to come out and protest. As the anniversary of Tamir Rice's death and the non-indictment of Mike Brown's killer kkkop approaches, there will be another rally followed by a "Protesters Potluck." Stay tuned for more articles!✪

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